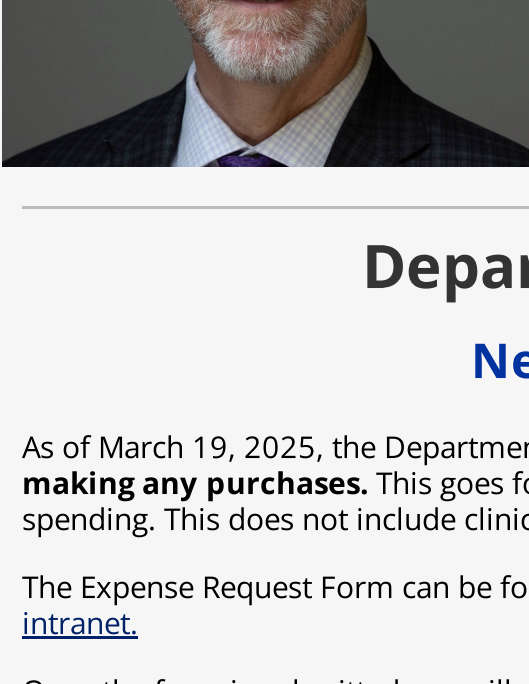




55 Words from the Chair



It's the season of long anticipated graduations and annual meetings! As we prepare to congratulate our fellowship and residency program graduates and welcome our new trainees, there's exciting news to share, including a new, innovative PA-MBA dual degree program. As always, please find important announcements below, along with recent accomplishments in research, education, and service.

Department Announcements

New Expense Request Form

As of March 19, 2025, the Department's policy on spending has been updated. **Please submit a request before making any purchases.** This goes for SOM operational, discretionary, and professional development spending. This does not include clinical CME or grant spending.

The Expense Request Form can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/vmSKD8SuZ> and on the [department intranet](#).

Once the form is submitted, we will communicate the outcome of the review within 48 hours. If an expense is purchased on a corporate card or submitted for reimbursement without prior approval, we cannot guarantee that it will be covered by the Department.

Please contact **Jason Freije** if you have any questions.

New Global Travel FAQs

As of April 9, Emory's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about traveling outside of the United States have been updated by the Emory Global Engagement team. As we approach summer, and as global events continue to change, we hope this will serve as a helpful resource for students, staff and faculty considering international travel. This page will also be updated as new information becomes available. As always, [International Student and Scholar Services](#) continues to be the best place to direct any Emory-sponsored international community members with additional questions.

New Department Letterhead - Mandatory Update

In response to a recent federal [executive order](#), Emory has updated our Equal Employment Opportunity statements to remain in compliance.

Materials containing any language related to "equal opportunity" and/or "affirmative action" that is not consistent with the language in this [policy](#) **should no longer be used after April 21**. That includes our digital letterhead and Emory business cards.

Please discard your old digital letterhead immediately or edit the footer to remove the non-compliant EO/AA language.

You'll find generic DFPM letterhead on the [department intranet](#). You can edit the header and footer to add division specific address, etc.

New SOM CV template - Mandatory Update

The School of Medicine has updated the SOM CV template. You can download it [here](#). Head's up: the SOM Office of Faculty Development is also working with the Council of Chairs to update the Guidelines for Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure. You can always find the latest templates and guidelines by visiting the [SOM Faculty Development website](#).

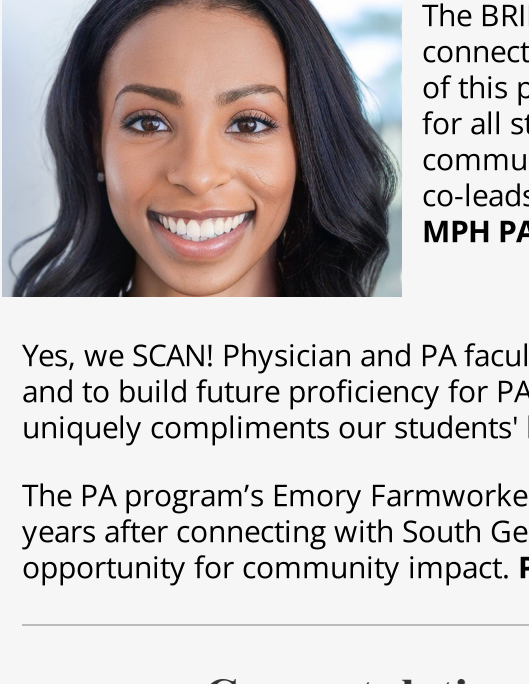
Events and Opportunities

SOM Faculty Opportunities and Recognitions Calendar

- SOM Faculty Awards nominations open - June 11, 2025
- SOM Faculty Awards nominations due - July 11, 2025
- Researchers' Day nominations open - July 21, 2025
- Researchers' Day nominations due - August 4, 2025
- Women's Leadership Course applications due - June 2025
- Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine and Executive Leadership in Healthcare applications due - August 2025
- CCPR deadline for DFPM faculty - August 31, 2025
- Clinical Distinctions 2025-2026 - Sept 2025 - Feb 2026
- EM-ProLEAD applications due - October 2025
- Junior Faculty Development Course applications due - October 2025
- Dean's Distinguished Lecture and Award nominations open - December 1, 2025

Celebrating our Successes

Grady Palliative Care Wins Emory@Grady Award



The entire **Grady Palliative Care Team** was awarded the 2024 Grady Team-Based Award which honors a single hospital team recognized for its outstanding service to patients, colleagues, and staff. Congratulations to the team, pictured here!

Emory Farmworker Project Wins IPEC Excellence Award



The Emory Farmworker Project (EFP), under the leadership of **Dr. Jodie Guest**, pictured here with Sr. Program Coordinator **Emi Grilli**, was awarded the 2025 Excellence in Interprofessional Education Collaboration National Award by the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) and the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC).

The Excellence in IPEC Collaboration Award is presented to an interprofessional team of health professional students and/or faculty, whose interdisciplinary work has significantly impacted the community they serve.

A major goal for EFP in the past six years has been to expand the interprofessional nature of the program. EFP is extremely proud of the connections they have created and nurtured over time to have representation from across Emory and other universities, and from a wide variety of health professions and specialties. As Emory works to build a reputation as an institution that creates and offers interprofessional experiences for students, faculty and other trainees, being awarded the highest national honor for excellence in interprofessional education and collaboration for the Emory Farmworker Project is incredibly exciting!

Clinic Bound: A PA Program Update

PA Program Director **Alex Kendall MS, PA-C** sent in these updates. Emory PA program has been ranked among the Top 8 programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report! This comes with decades of consistency being in the top 10, congrats to the whole team!

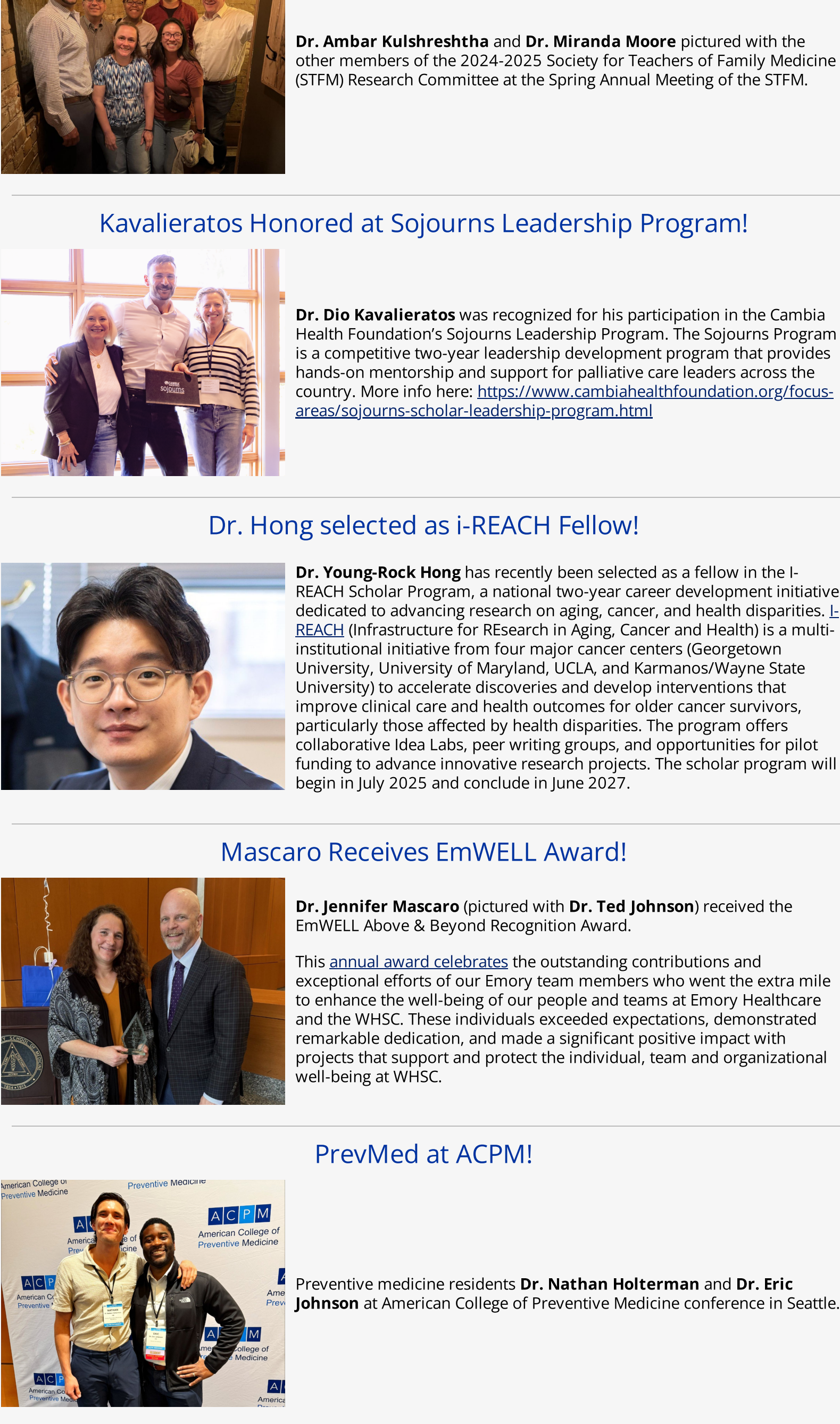
The Emory PA program has developed a [new PA-MBA dual degree program](#) with Georgia Business School, opening Summer 2026. To better preparing our students for leadership roles in healthcare, this unique opportunity complements our existing PA-MPH dual degree program with Rollins School of Public Health.

The BRIDGE Mentorship program opened this year to connect students to professional mentors. The mission of this program is to create an inclusive environment for all students, and to cultivate a multigenerational community of professional mentors. A great thanks to co-leads **Taylor Hayes, MPH PA-C** and **Veketa Smith, MPH PA-C**!

Yes, we SCANI Physician and PA faculty have co-created a dedicated POCUS curriculum to assist in active learning and to build future proficiency for PAs. Also, a dedicated POCUS and radiology clinical rotation at Grady Hospital uniquely complements our students' learning.

The PA program's Emory Farmworker Project (EFP) heads to Valdosta and Bainbridge, GA this Summer. Nearly 30 years after connecting with South Georgia farmworker communities, the EFP continues to provide an incredible opportunity for community impact. **Please inquire about volunteering!**

Congratulations to DFPM 2025 Educators' Day Honorees!



Dr. Mirtha Aguilar-Alvarado Dr. Laura Brachman Dr. Puneet Chahal Dr. Rebekka DePew

Dr. Paul DeSandro Dr. Eunice Gietz Taylor Hayes, MMS, MPH, PA-C, ATC Alex Kendall, MS, PA-C

Dr. Ashima Lal Dr. Jimi Malik Dr. Lawson Marcwicz Dr. Julie Mitchell

Dr. Miranda Moore Dr. Ann Murthy Dr. Lynn O'Neill Dr. Natalia Pineda

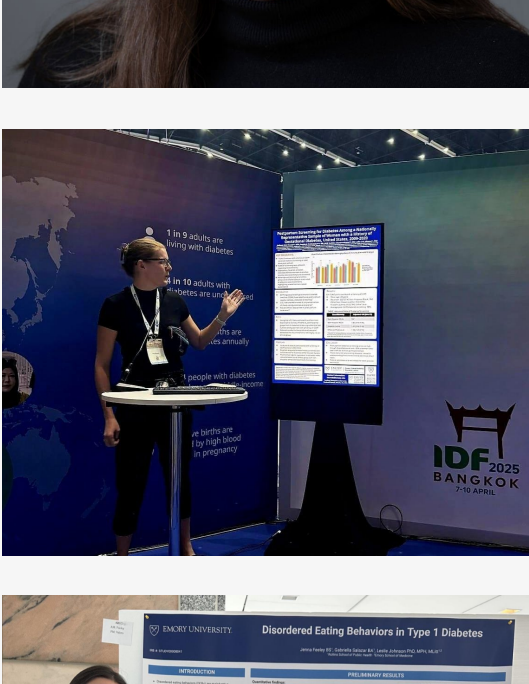
Dr. Emily Pinto Taylor Veketa Smith, MMS, MPH, PA-C Dr. Victoria Sweetnam Dr. Arin Swerlick

Dr. Jabeen Taj Dr. Erin Weinisch Dr. David Wilkerson Dr. Janelle Williams Holder

Palliative Capstone Day

We had a great Palliative Care Capstone Day on April 24th for the graduating MSW class, teaching palliative care skills for future residents. We are so appreciative of the contributions from some of our fellows, faculty and our outpatient palliative pharmacist to make it a success!

Family Medicine at STFM!



Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha and **Dr. Miranda Moore** pictured with the other members of the 2024-2025 Society for Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Research Committee at the Spring Annual Meeting of the STFM.

Kavalieratos Honored at Sojourns Leadership Program!



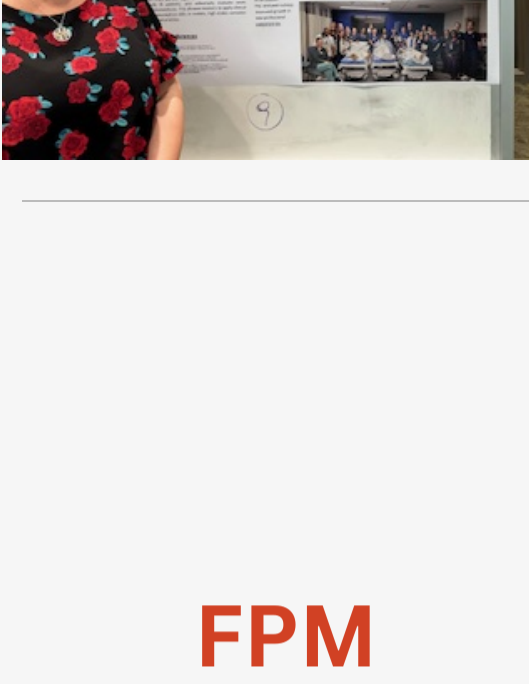
Dr. Dio Kavalieratos was recognized for his participation in the Cambia Health Foundation's Sojourns Leadership Program. The Sojourns Program is a competitive two-year leadership development program that provides hands-on mentorship and support for palliative care leaders across the country. More info here: <https://www.cambiahalthfoundation.org/focus-areas/sojourns-scholar-leadership-program.html>

Dr. Hong selected as I-REACH Fellow!



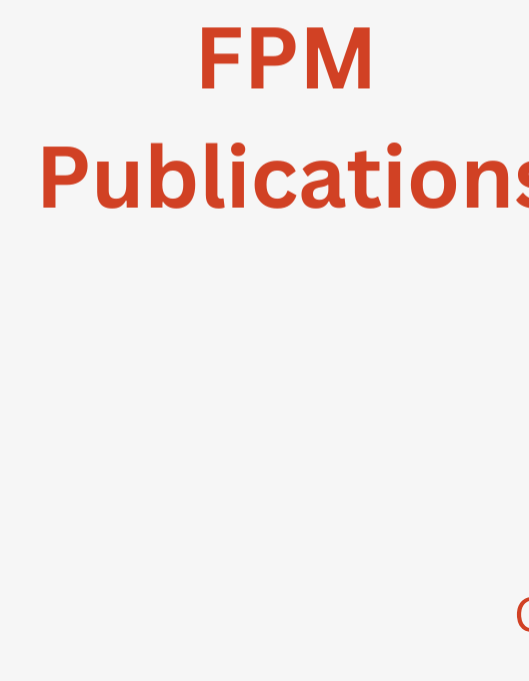
Dr. Young-Rock Hong has recently been selected as a fellow in the I-REACH Scholar Program, a national two-year career development initiative dedicated to advancing research on aging, cancer, and health disparities. I-REACH (Infrastructure for Research in Aging, Cancer and Health) is a multi-institutional initiative from four major cancer centers (Georgetown University, University of Maryland, UCLA, and Karmanos/Wayne State University) to accelerate discoveries and develop interventions that improve clinical care and health outcomes for older cancer survivors, particularly those affected by health disparities. The program offers collaborative idea Labs, peer writing groups, and opportunities for pilot funding to advance innovative research projects. The scholar program will begin in July 2025 and conclude in June 2027.

Mascaro Receives EmWELL Award!



This [annual award](#) celebrates the outstanding contributions and exceptional efforts of our Emory team members who went the extra mile to enhance the well-being of our people and teams at Emory Healthcare and the WHSC. These individuals exceeded expectations, demonstrated remarkable dedication, and made a significant positive impact with projects that support and protect the individual, team and organizational well-being at WHSC.

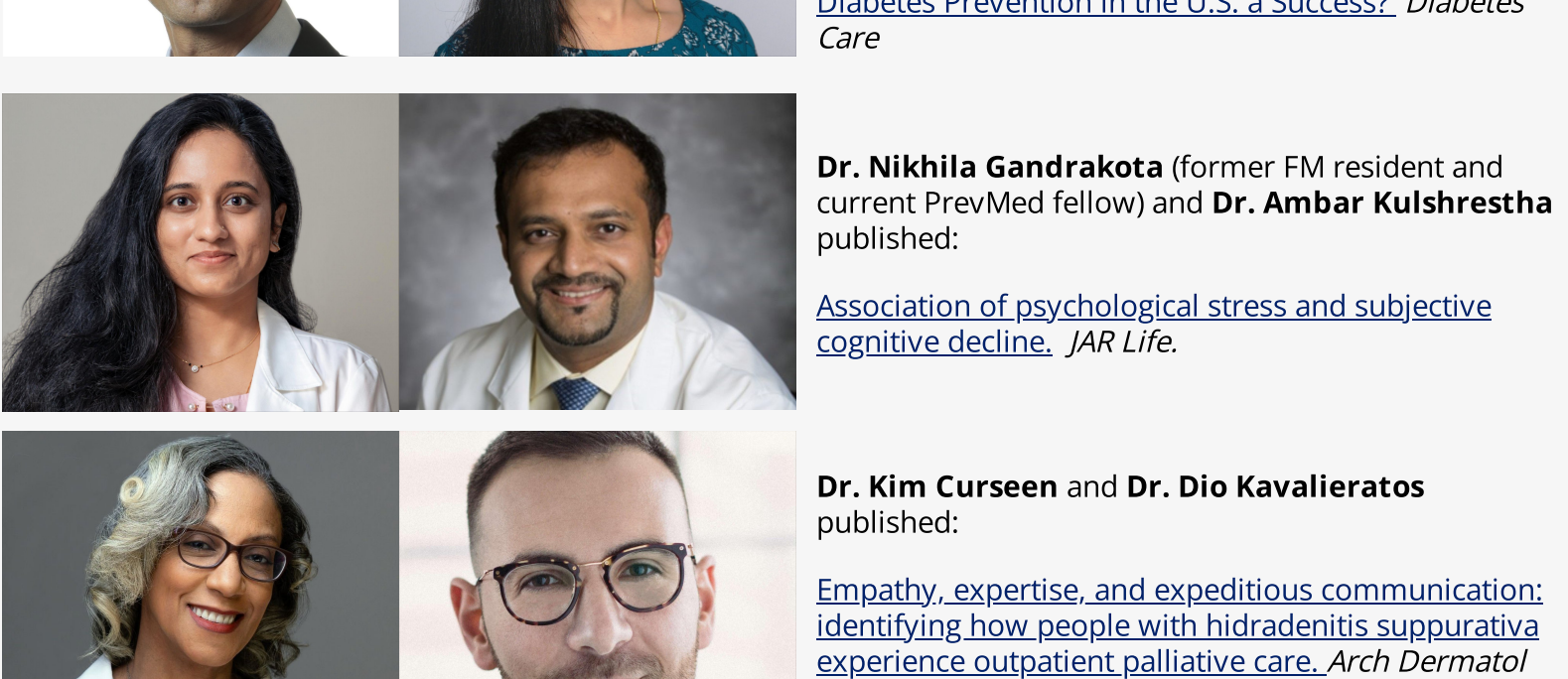
PrevMed at ACPM!



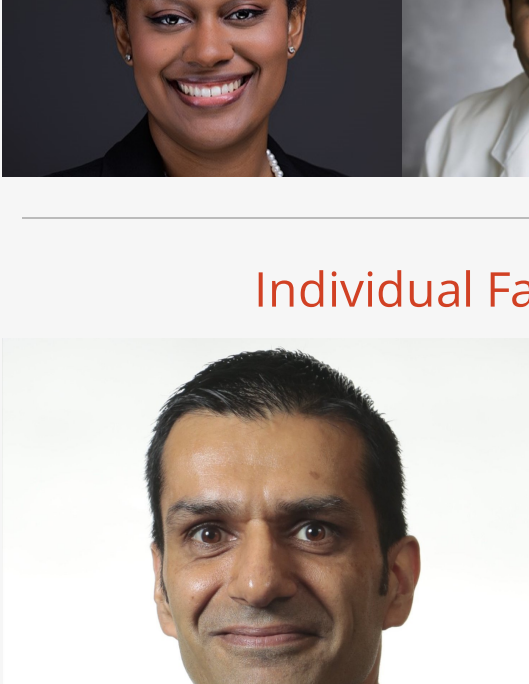
Preventive medicine residents **Dr. Nathan Holtzman** and **Dr. Eric Johnson** at American College of Preventive Medicine conference in Seattle.

Family Medicine Community Celebration and Meet & Greet

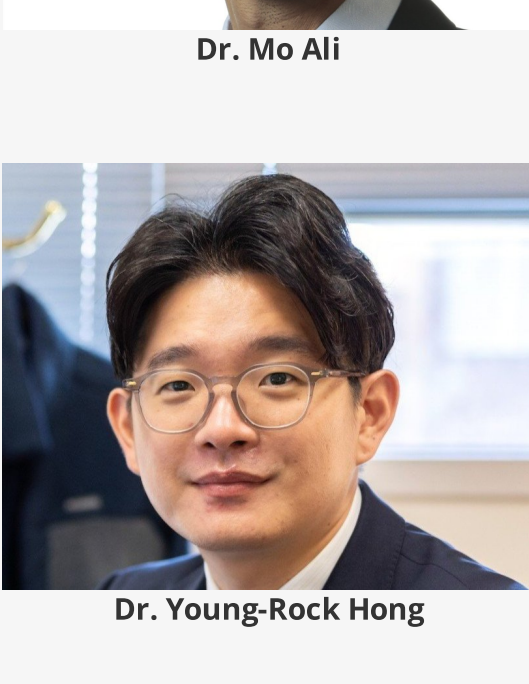
A great group of Family Medicine faculty, community preceptors, and students interested in Family Medicine gathered on 4/27 for the Family Medicine-Match Celebration and Meet & Greet organized by the UGME team!



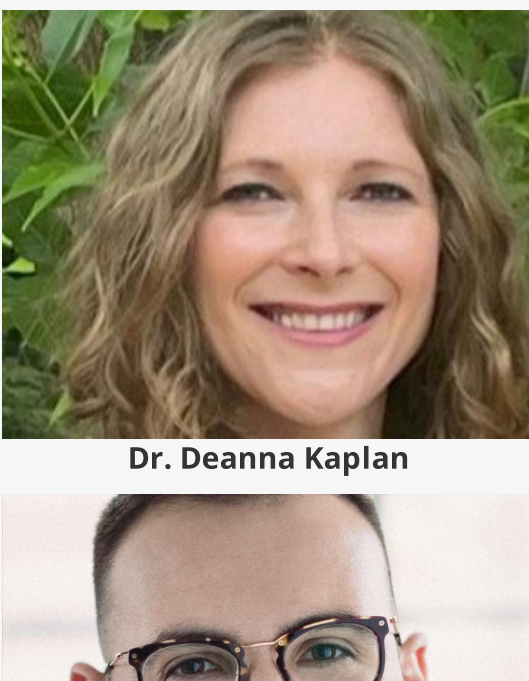
Recent and Upcoming Presentations



Dr. Sarah Cross presented her talk, "When the Policy is the Problem: How the Medicare Hospice Benefit Contributes to Inequities at the End of Life", at Emory Palliative Care Grand Rounds.



Dr. Leslie Johnson had work from her Gestational Diabetes Pilot presented at the *International Diabetes Foundation Conference* in Bangkok, Thailand. Kan Sawak (pictured) presented two abstracts for the study team comprised of **Dr. Rosette Chakkalakal** and Suchi Chandrasekaran. The presentations were entitled, "Hospitalists and screening for Diabetes Among a Nationally Representative Sample of Women with a History of GDM, US, 2009-2020" and "Agreement between Birth Certificate and Self-reported GDM among Women in the United States and Reasons for Discordance."



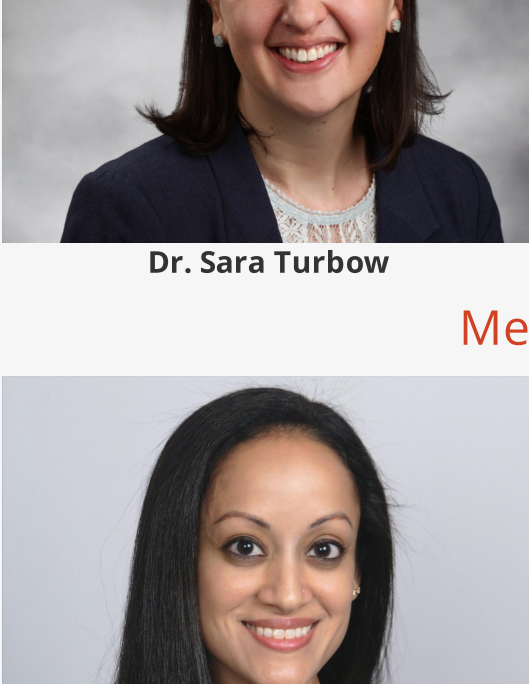
One of **Dr. Leslie Johnson's** doctoral students from the Nutrition and Health Sciences Program presented their work for the 5th Annual Health Equity Day. In the attached photo, Jenna Feeley presented on a project they developed for their research rotation entitled, "Disordered Eating Behaviors in Type 1 Diabetes."



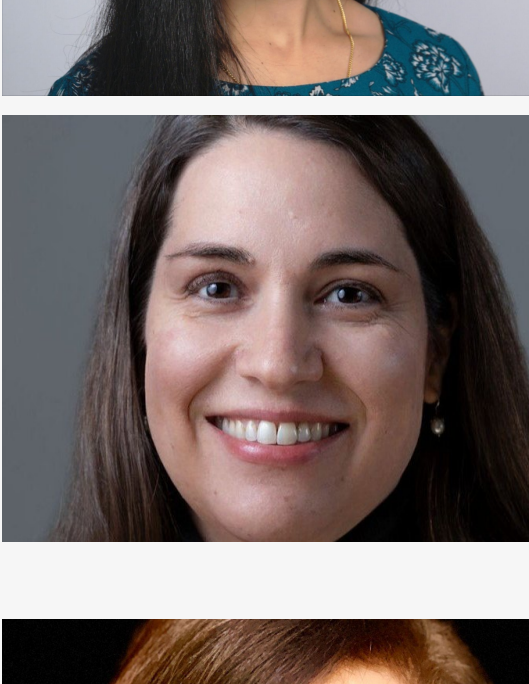
Dr. Leslie Johnson presented study results from the *Integrating HIV and HEART health in South Africa (IHART-SA)* trial at a culminating community dissemination meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa showcasing the impact of this project. Following the meeting, members of the team traveled to different study sites to do brief presentations to clinic patients regarding the outcomes of implementing strategies to enhance hypertension care. I am a co-investigator on this NHLBI-funded study and Dr. Mo Ali is one of the MPhIs



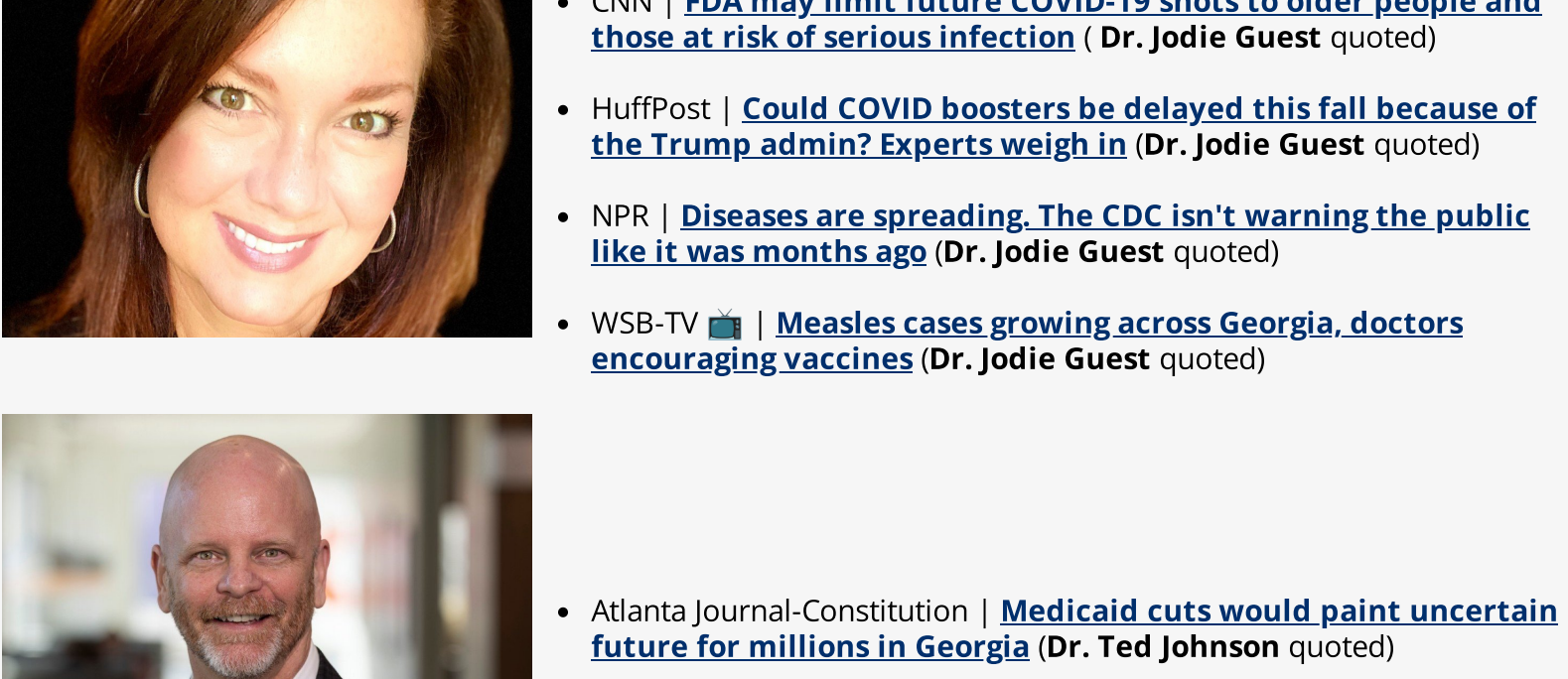
Dr. Dio Kavalieratos and Natalia Smirnova, MD (Assistant Professor, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine) presented Emory Pulmonary Medicine Grand Rounds on May 6th: "The Evolving Role of Palliative Care in Serious Respiratory Illness."



Carina Oltmann, LCSW, MSSW, Manager of Research Projects for the Division of Palliative Medicine, recently presented at the annual SWHPN forum in Minneapolis on forging an academic and research career as a palliative social worker. She was joined by palliative social work researcher Dr. Stephanie Wladkowski and palliative educator Stacy Remke, LCSW for the panel discussion on the value of psychosocial palliative care research and evidence-based practice.

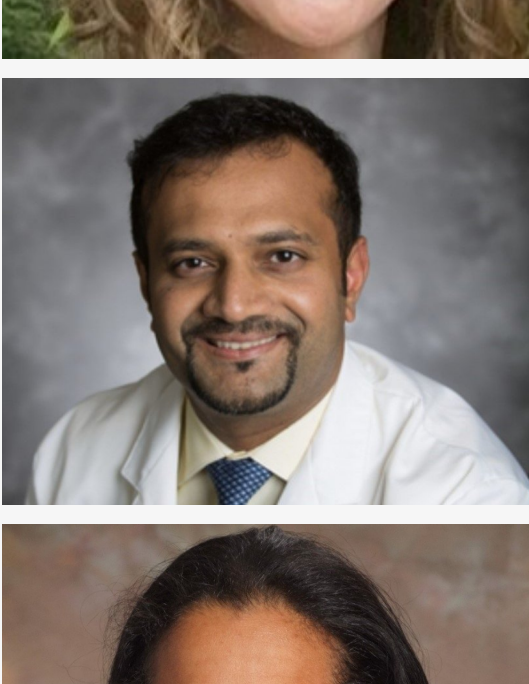


Dr. Erin Weinisch presented a poster titled "*Team-based Triage: An Interprofessional Simulation for PA & RN Learners*" at the Center for Faculty Development & Excellence's Teaching and Learning Showcase on April 25, 2025. The poster highlighted the outcomes of a collaborative simulation lab with the School of Nursing, focused on enhancing compensating patient management and prioritization skills among didactic PA learners and pre-licensure RN learners.

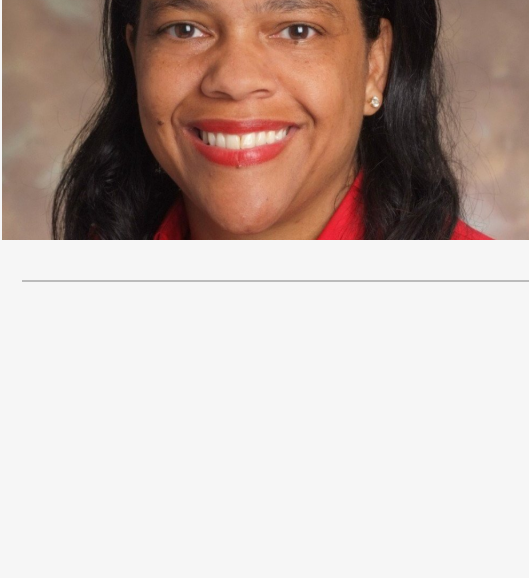


FPM Publications

Collaborative Publications



Dr. Mo Ali and **Dr. Rosette Chakkalakal** published: *Risk of New-Onset Diabetes Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Real-World Cohort Study*. *J Gen Intern Med*.
[Is the Current Lifestyle Modification Approach to Diabetes Prevention in the U.S. a Success?](#) *Diabetes Care*



Dr. Nishila Gandrakota (former FM resident and current PrevMed fellow) and **Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha** published: *Association of psychological stress and subjective cognitive decline*. *JAR Life*.

Dr. Kim Curseen and **Dr. Dio Kavalieratos** published: *Empathy, expertise, and expeditious communication: identifying how people with hidradenitis suppurativa experience outpatient palliative care*. *Arch Dermatol Res*.

Dr. Lindsey Garrett (SOM Class of 2025 and incoming FM resident) and **Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha** published: *Effect of neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage on 30-day readmissions: A systematic review*. *J Hosp Med*.

Individual Faculty, Staff, and Learner Publications

- Association of age at menarche with type 2 diabetes, mellitus among urban Indian women: results from the CAHS study. *Int J Epidemiol*
- Leveraging Historical Patient Data to Identify Unlabeled Diabetes and Prediabetes in Routine Care. *Diabetes Care*
- Self-Care Behaviors and Associated Factors Among Hypertensive Patients at Dessie Referral Hospital, Northeast Ethiopia. *Am J Hypertens*

- Association between cancer screenings uptake and genetic testing for cancer risk among US adults: findings from HINTS 2017-2020. *J Community Genet*
- Factors associated with smoking and e-cigarette use statuses among individuals with chronic diseases after hurricanes Helene and Milton. *Tob Induc Dis*
- Pre-Surgical Education and Discharge Planning for Head and Neck Cancer: A Qualitative Study of Patient and Caregiver Perspectives. *Patient Control*
- Participation in Electronic Patient-Reported Outcome Measures Collection as a Part of Routine Supportive Care Delivery in Outpatient. *A J Oncol Pract*
- Association of Telehealth Encounters with Lung Cancer Screening Consultation in the United States: Preliminary Results. *APM Focus*
- Food, housing, and transportation insecurities in relation to climate change harm perceptions: a US national survey study. *J Public Health*

- What motivates spiritual health practitioners in psychedelic-assisted therapy? A qualitative study and implications for facilitator training practices. *Genomic Press*

- Immediate Effects of Mindfulness Meditation on the Voice. *J Voice*

- The association between pulse wave velocity and cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease. *J Alzheimers Dis*

- Protocol for the 2024 CERA General Membership Survey. *PRIMER*

- Enhancing Health Survey Infrastructure for Chronic Disease. *JAMA*

Media and Public Appearances

- Foodie Pharmacology podcast | **Food as Medicine** (Dr. Rosette Chakkalakal interviewed)

- PBS News Hour | **New research finds rural Americans don't live as long as city-dwellers** (Dr. Sarah Cross's publication cited)

- Boston Globe | **PEK Jr.'s effort to undermine COVID boosters is unethical** (Dr. Jodie Guest quoted)
- CNN | **FDA may limit future COVID-19 shots to older people and those at risk of serious infection** (Dr. Jodie Guest quoted)
- HuffPost | **Could COVID boosters be delayed this fall because of the Trump admin? Experts weigh in** (Dr. Jodie Guest quoted)
- NPR | **Diseases are spreading, The CDC isn't warning the public like it was months ago** (Dr. Jodie Guest quoted)
- WISC-TV 3 | **Measles cases growing across Georgia, doctors encourage vaccines** (Dr. Jodie Guest quoted)

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution | **Medicaid cuts would paint uncertain future for millions in Georgia** (Dr. Ted Johnson quoted)

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution | **What your voice reveals about your health** (Emory research featured. Dr. Deanna Kaplan quoted on the front page of the Living section)
- EIN Presswire | **Spiritual health practitioners reveal key motivations in psychedelic-assisted therapy practice** (Dr. Deanna Kaplan quoted)

- Georgia CSA newsletter | **Innovative Research Shared During Health Services Research Day** (Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha quoted)

- Faculty Conversations Video Series | **Woodruff Leadership Academy Relaunch** (Dr. Tammie Quest interviewed)